



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING HIS BROTHER'S IDENTITY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former Independence, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to stealing his brother's identity in order to make more than \$55,000 in purchases.

Lawrence Stuart Tuttle, 49, formerly of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to identity theft.

By pleading guilty today, **Tuttle** admitted that he obtained a Missouri driver's license in the name of his brother on July 5, 2000. From July 12, 2000, through July 12, 2001, **Tuttle** used his brother's name, date of birth and Social Security number to make \$55,366 in purchases, including credit cards, a mobile home lease and two loans to purchase pick-up trucks. Among the credit card purchases, Graves said, **Tuttle** charged \$10,000 to pay a Wisconsin law firm for representation in his child support action.

Under federal statutes, **Tuttle** could be subject to a sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Reddis. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow